

Message Text

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APPROVED BY P MR. SISCO

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 186332

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: MASS, IS, US

SUBJECT: JORDANIAN REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

REF: AMMAN 5323

FOR AMBASSADOR FROM SISCO

1. YOU SHOULD TELL PRIME MINISTER RIFAI THAT WE HAVE NOT REACHED ANY DECISION YET ON WHAT OVERALL LEVEL OF U.S. ASSISTANCE TO ISRAEL WILL BE RECOMMENDED TO THE CONGRESS FOR FY 1976. HE MAY READ IN THE PRESS IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS OF TALKS IN WASHINGTON WITH ISRAELI FINANCIAL EXPERTS. THESE ARE AT A TECHNICAL LEVEL FOR THE PURPOSE OF EXAMINING THE ISRAELI REQUEST IN DETAIL.

2. YOU MIGHT WISH TO GIVE RIFAI FOLLOWING BACKGROUND ON

THE DOLS 2.5 BILLION FIGURE HE HAS SEEN REFERRED TO IN THE PRESS. LAST JANUARY ISRAELIS PRESENTED, AS THEY HAVE
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DONE ANNUALLY FOR PAST SEVERAL YEARS, THEIR PROJECTION OF

THEIR FOREIGN EXCHANGE PICTURE FOR THE COMING YEAR. THIS LEADS THEM TO STATEMENT OF FOREIGN EXCHANGE GAP WHICH THEY FORESEE, AND THAT FIGURE NORMALLY BECOMES BASIS FOR THEIR ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE REQUEST. THIS IS THE CASE AGAIN THIS YEAR, AND DOLS 2.5 BILLION IS IN NEIGHBORHOOD OF TOTAL AMOUNT GOI IS REQUESTING.

3. YOU MAY TELL RIFAI IT IS ALMOST ACADEMIC AT THIS POINT TO DISCUSS BREAKDOWN OF ISRAELI REQUEST IN TERMS OF POSSIBLE MIX OF U. S. ASSISTANCE. IN ISRAELI CASE, PROGRAM HAS NORMALLY BEEN MIXTURE OF FMS SUPPORTING ASSISTANCE, A SMALL AMOUNT OF PL 480 AND SOME OTHER SMALL PROGRAMS SUCH AS HOUSING GUARANTEES. THAT MIX WILL NOT BE DETERMINED UNTIL RECOMMENDATION SENT TO CONGRESS, AND ANY FIGURES PRESS MAY BE USING ON THIS ARE PURELY ILLUSTRATIVE.

4. ALTHOUGH INCLUSION OF LANCE AND F-15 IN FY 1976 MILITARY ASSISTANCE PACKAGE REQUESTED BY ISRAEL IS BEING TREATED AS "OPEN SECRET" IN U. S. PRESS, WE HAVE NOT REPEAT NOT CONFIRMED THEIR INCLUSION PUBLICLY. SUGGEST YOU TELL RIFAI THAT AS OF NOW, USG HAS TAKEN NO DECISION ON QUESTION OF PROVIDING THESE TWO WEAPONS SYSTEMS TO ISRAEL IN CONNECTION WITH OUR FY 1976 MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

5. YOU MAY ALSO INFORM RIFAI THAT AID DECISION FOR ISRAEL WILL BE PART OF DECISION ON AID LEVELS FOR ALL MIDDLE EAST PROGRAMS WHICH WILL BE MADE AS PART OF CURRENT POLICY REASSESSMENT. KISSINGER

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